

Croughton Parish Council

Allotment Gardens

Policy, Rules and Tenancy Agreement

This document was agreed at the meeting of Croughton Parish Council on 12th August 2024 and takes effect from 1st October 2024.

Previous reviews: 14 October 2013
12 October 2015
12 June 2017
09 September 2018
11 February 2019
10 November 2020
15 November 2022

Allotments Policy and Rules

The aims of the Policy, Rules and Tenancy Agreement are:

- To have clear and transparent processes for the operation of the Allotment Gardens
- To provide equitable access to the Allotment Gardens for residents of Croughton
- To ensure fair and consistent treatment of all allotment tenants

Purpose of Document

The purpose of this document is to provide a guide to the Parish Council's policies, rules and administration in relation to Croughton Allotment Gardens.

The document will be made available to members of the public, both individually when agreeing to take on an allotment tenancy and collectively on the Parish Council website www.croughtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

The document will be reviewed regularly as set out in the annual Action Plan.

Responsibility

Croughton Parish Allotments were established for the benefit of residents in Croughton.

The Allotments belong to, and are under the direction of, Croughton Parish Council.

The Council is not a member of the National Allotments Association and is not therefore bound by their rules.

Management Principles

In managing the Allotment Gardens, Croughton Parish Council will:

- Communicate with individual Allotment Tenants on issues relating to their own Tenancy Agreement
- Communicate with all Allotment Tenants on issues which affect all Allotment Tenants
- Provide fair and consistent treatment of all Allotment Tenants
- Undertake fair enforcement where rules are not followed
- Maintain the Allotment Gardens to a high standard within the budget of Croughton Parish Council

Location of Allotment Gardens

The Allotment Gardens are situated on the western edge of the village, on the north side of High Street, between the centre of the village and Blenheim.

Administration

1. People wishing to rent an allotment should apply in writing to the Parish Clerk, Croughton Parish Council, Croughton Village Hall, Wheelers Rise, Croughton NN13 5ND. Email: clerk@croughtonparishcouncil.gov.uk
2. A waiting list of people wishing to rent an allotment or change their existing plot will be maintained by the Parish Clerk.
3. All tenants shall receive a copy of the Policy, Rules and Tenancy Agreement and sign a Tenancy Agreement prior to becoming an Allotment Tenant.

Rents

The Allotments Act 1950 stipulates that the maximum amount of rent which can be charged for an allotment garden tenancy is such rent 'as a tenant may reasonably be expected to pay for the land if let for such use on the terms on which it is in fact let.'

The rent of the Allotment Garden shall be charged in half-yearly instalments in March/April and September/October each year.

The income derived from allotment rents goes to Croughton Parish Council to be set against the costs of provision of water and maintenance.

The allotment rents are reviewed from time to time by the Council. Any decision to increase the rents will comply with the requirements of the Allotments Act 1950 and will be notified to tenants six months before the increase will be implemented.

Allotment Allocation

1. When an allotment becomes available, it will be offered in the following order of priority:

1.1 Existing Tenants and applicants on the Waiting List

- 1st: the existing tenant of the other part of the plot if the available plot is a part-plot
- 2nd: the first name on the waiting list of any existing tenants who wish to change plots and have applied in writing for the change
- 3rd: the first name on the waiting list of prospective new tenants

- 1.2 If there are no people already on a waiting list, an advert will be placed in the Croughton Parish Newsletter and on Croughton website to elicit applicants by a given date. The plot will then be offered to the first name drawn in a ballot of those applying to the advertisement by the date requested.
2. In all cases above, allocation will be subject to all the following conditions:
 - 2.1 One person may only rent a maximum of one allotment, and
 - 2.2 One household may only rent a maximum of one allotment, and
 - 2.3 Priority will be given to Croughton residents, and
 - 2.4 The decision of Croughton Parish Council shall be final.

Tenancy Rules

The Tenant of an Allotment Garden shall comply with the following Rules:

1. The tenant shall pay the rent in accordance with the terms of the Tenancy
2. A tenant shall not sub-let, assign or part with possession of the Allotment Garden or any part of it.
3. A tenant shall keep the Allotment Garden free of safety hazards, e.g. broken glass or scrap metal, etc. and in a good state of cultivation and fertility.
4. The Allotment Garden is for the cultivation of vegetables, flowers and fruit only. Up to 2 fruit trees are permitted on a full plot (1 tree on a half plot) up to a maximum height of 2m. All trees and their branches must remain within the confines of the Allotment Garden which they are planted in.
5. Vehicle access is only permitted for the specific purpose and time of loading and unloading.
6. A tenant shall not cause any nuisance or annoyance to the occupier of any other Allotment Garden or obstruct any existing path used by the tenants of the Allotment Garden.
7. Water butts are permissible but shall be covered.
8. Hosepipes may be used but must be attended at all times. Croughton Parish Council reserves the right to remove this facility when the hosepipe ban is in force.
9. Sprinklers are not permitted.
10. Composters are permissible. Tenants are advised to contact the principal Authority (currently West Northamptonshire Council) for information on compost bins.

11. No sheds, buildings or constructions of any description shall be erected on the Allotment Garden without the written consent of Croughton Parish Council.

Following written permission, sheds are allowed on the Allotment Gardens and are to be located on the north side of the plot, the shed door to face south.

A shed can be no more than 7ft x 5ft, with a single sloping roof, and be of wooden construction. The shed shall be kept in a good state of repair. Add-ons and lean-to constructions are not permitted.

12. Following written permission, one toolbox is allowed on the north side of each Allotment Garden which does not have a shed. A toolbox should be no more than 6ft wide x 2ft 6 inches deep x 3ft high, and it should be of wooden or plastic construction. The toolbox shall be kept in a good state of repair.
13. No rubbish or waste shall be deposited on dividing paths or the main access path. All garden waste is to be disposed of by the Allotment Garden tenant.
14. Small garden waste fires are permitted on the tenant's own plot and must be attended at all times. These may only be lit if there is no nuisance to neighbouring properties.
15. The tenants may hold an annual social event at the Allotment Gardens but are requested to advise Croughton Parish Council of the date of any such event in advance so that appropriate insurance can be put in place by the organisers of the event.
16. When an Allotment Garden tenant leaves Croughton village, they will only be allowed to continue renting if there is nobody on the waiting list. When there is a Croughton applicant on the waiting list, the current tenant will be allowed to keep the allotment until the end of the current six-month rental period, and it will then be offered in accordance with the Allocation Policy.
17. A tenant who wishes to terminate tenancy of an Allotment Garden, should write to the Parish Clerk, Croughton Parish Council, Croughton Village Hall, Wheelers Rise, Croughton NN13 5ND.
Email: clerk@croughtonparishcouncil.gov.uk